



To: Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority Board of Directors
From: Real Estate Department
Date: October 24, 2019
Re: Award Recommendations for the Indiana Housing First Program

Background

The Indiana Housing First Program was established through state legislation in 2017 to provide rental assistance and supportive services to individuals and families with a serious and persistent mental illness, a chronic chemical addiction, or a serious and persistent mental illness with a co-occurring chronic chemical addiction who are also facing a housing crisis or exiting a residential treatment program. The Program uses a Housing First model, meaning that services provided are voluntarily selected by participants and are predicated on a harm reduction approach to addiction. Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness or treatment programs.

On August 5, 2019, IHCDA released an updated policy and Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) with an informational webinar conducted on August 14, 2019. Responses to the RFQ were due on September 3, 2019. Eligible respondents were 501(c) (3) non-profit organizations, public housing agencies, or units of local government.

On September 3, 2019, IHCDA received seven (7) responses requesting an aggregate award of \$1,950,000. IHCDA has a total of \$872,226 available for allocation.

Process

An IHCDA selection committee individually reviewed all responses and then met as a group to discuss the merits of each. The selection committee’s review and funding recommendation was based upon the following factors:

- Compliance with the RFQ submission requirements;
- Experience of respondent, particularly experience administering rental assistance programs, providing supportive services, and utilizing the Housing First model;
- Financial capacity;
- Readiness to proceed, as demonstrated by identification of appropriate partners and implementation timelines;
- Program design, including but not limited to, proposed tenant selection plan, service delivery model and budget; and
- Past award performance.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the allocations listed below to be made to four (4) organizations to implement the Indiana Housing First Program.

Award #	Lead Applicant	Primary Area Served	Award Requested	Award Recommended
HFP-19-001	Aurora, Inc.	Vanderburgh County	\$300,000	\$190,742
HFP-19-002	Housing Opportunities, Inc.	Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Newton, and Starke Counties	\$300,000	\$300,000
HFP-19-003	Human Services, Inc.	Bartholomew, Decatur, Jackson, Johnson, and Shelby Counties	\$300,000	\$190,742
HFP-19-004	Volunteers of America of Indiana, Inc.	Cities of Indianapolis, Winchester, Evansville, and Columbus	\$300,000	\$190,742
Total:			\$1,200,000	\$872,226

The following applications are not recommended for funding:

Lead Applicant	Primary Area Served	Reason for Denial	Award Requested	Award Recommended
Community Health Network Foundation	Howard, Clinton, and Tipton Counties	Lack of funding availability.	\$300,000	\$0
Mental Health America of West Central Indiana	Vigo, Clay, Sullivan, Park, Putnam, and Vermillion Counties	Lack of funding availability	\$150,000	\$0
Southlake/Tri-City Management Corporation dba Geminus Corporation	Lake County	Lack of funding availability	\$300,000	\$0
Total:			\$750,000	\$0

Action Needed:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that the Board approve the following: an aggregate award of Indiana Housing First Program funding in the amount of \$872,226 to the four (4) above-listed recipients, as recommended by staff.